

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 CEQ-01
EPA-01 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
-----251859Z 105701 /41

R 251635Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1032
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
FAA BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 7971

1. IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM WE DEPLORED
THAT FRENCH MEDIA HAD DONE NO OBJECTIVE, INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTING ON CONCORDE NOISE AT THEIR OWN DOORSTEP,
IN THE VICINITY OF CHARLES DE GAULLE (CDG) AIRPORT.
WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THERE HAS NOW BEEN A
BREAKTHROUGH OF SORTS BY ONE PARIS DAILY ANYWAY,
EVEN IF IT IS THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.
PLASTERED ACROSS ONE QUARTER OF THE FRONT PAGE OF THE
TRIB'S EDITION OF MARCH 25 IS AN ASSOCIATED PRESS
INTERVIEW, COMPLETE WITH PHOTO, WITH ANDRE LIBLIN,
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HEAD OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE IN THE CDG VICINITY
THAT RECENTLY WROTE TO THE NEW YORK PORT
AUTHORITY URGING THAT IT BAN CONCORDE (REFTEL).

2. IN THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "CONCORDE ELICITS
A SOUND OF FURY," LIBLIN OUTLINED THE TRIALS
AND TRIBULATIONS THAT HAVE BESET HIM BECAUSE OF HIS

STAND AGAINST CONCORDE: HIS BOSS (AT A US-OWNED COMPANY, INCIDENTALLY) TOLD HIM TO STOP SPEAKING OUT AGAINST CONCORDE; REPS OF GOF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE BEEN AROUND TO TALK TO HIM; HE'S BEEN CHARGED WITH ACTING ON THE BASIS OF MISINFORMATION OR OUT OF SUBSERVIENCE TO FOREIGN INTEREST; HE THINKS HIS PHONE IS NOW TAPPED; A THOUSAND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE RESIGNED IN PROTEST TO THE LETTER SENT TO THE PORT AUTHORITY (BUT AS MANY MORE HAVE SINCE ASKED TO JOIN). IN SHORT, SAYS LIBLIN, "THEY'RE CALLING ME A TRAITOR."

3. LIBLIN LIVES AT GOUSSAINVILLE AND HIS HOUSE IS ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF FROM THE END OF THE RUNWAY AT CDG AND ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE TO ONE SIDE OF THE FLIGHT PATH. GOUSSAINVILLE IS THE VILLAGE WHERE THE TU-144 CRASHED DURING THE 1973 PARIS AIR SHOW. "WHEN THAT SOVIET SUPERSONIC, THE TUPOLEV, CRASHED LITERALLY TEN METERS FROM MY HOUSE YOU HAD FRENCH REPORTERS ALL OVER HERE," LIBLIN TOLD THE TRIB. "BUT TRY TO GET THEM TO WRITE ABOUT THE NOISE CONCORDE MAKES AND THERE'S A WALL OF SILENCE." AS FOR THE ARGUMENT THAT OPPOSING CONCORDE MEANS OPPOSING FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, LIBLIN SAID: "THAT'S LIKE SAYING YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN FAVOR OF WARS TO HAVE AN ARMS INDUSTRY OR THAT YOU HAVE TO PROMOTE SICKNESS TO BE IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESS...WE SAY (CONCORDE'S) NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOOD, THAT IT'S A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THAT WE WOULDN'T CARE IF THE PLANE WERE AMERICAN OR RUSSIAN. PEOPLE WERE SO SURPRISED WHEN WE SAID IT BECAUSE IN THIS COUNTRY NO ONE GENERALLY OPENS HIS MOUTH IF THE WIND IS BLOWING THAT WAY."

4. WIRE SERVICES HAD EARLIER REPORTED ONLY TWO PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE LETTER LIBLIN'S COMMITTEE HAD SENT TO THE PORT AUTHORITY URGING THE BANNING OF CONCORDE. THE PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY (L'AEROPORT DE PARIS), WHICH OPERATES CDG, INFORMED AFP THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS OBVIOUSLY MISINFORMED AND WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF ACCURATE DATA ON CONCORDE NOISE. (COMMENT: WE ARE STILL SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR SOME TRACE OF LOGIC IN THIS POSITION, FOR AEROPORT DE PARIS SEEMS TO BE TELLING LIBLIN THAT HE DOESN'T REALLY HEAR WHAT HE THINKS AND WHAT HE SAYS HE HEARS WHEN CONCORDE FLIES OVER HIS HOUSE. WE MIGHT NOTE THAT

AEROPORT DE PARIS' OWN HEADQUARTERS ARE ON
BLVD. RASPAIL IN THE CENTER OF PARIS, WHERE THE
ONLY SOUND OF WHICH THEY CAN THERE LEGITIMATELY
COMPLAIN COMES FROM STREET TRAFFIC.) THE OTHER

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R 251635Z MAR 77
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

REACTION, PREDICTABLE, HAS COME FROM LUCIEN NEUWIRTH,
RPR DEPUTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE FRANCH PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE. IN A STATEMENT
TO THE PRESS ON MARCH 18, NEUWIRTH EXPRESSED
INDIGNATION THAT WHEN "THE WHOLE COUNTRY" IS
RALLYING IN DEFENSE OF CONCORDE, IT HAS TO BE
FROM FRANCE THAT AMMUNITION IS PROVIDED TO HELP
"SHOOT DOWN" CONCORDE. "WITHOUT MISUNDERSTANDING
THE LOCAL PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
VICINITY OF ROISSY (CDG), " CONTINUED NEUWIRTH, "A
QUESTION COMES TO MIND: WHAT PRESSURES AND WHAT
INTERESTS COULD HAVE COME INTO PLAY TO MAKE THIS
COMMITTEE DECIDE TO MAKE SUCH A DEMARCHE? COULD

IT BE IRRESPONSIBILITY?" (COMMENT: NEUWIRTH, WE
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MIGHT ADD, REPRESENTS A CONSTITUENCY IN CENTRAL
FRANCE, QUITE A DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE CONCORDE
FLIGHT PATH, AND NONE OF HIS ELECTORATE IS BOTHERED
BY CONCORDE NOISE.)

5. COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF THE TRIB STORY WE
MAY NOW SEE SOME EFFORT TO WRING A FEW MORE HUMAN
INTEREST ANGLES FROM LIBLIN'S STORY BY THE FRENCH
MEDIA, WHICH ALL TOO OFTEN SEEMS TO TAKE ITS
INSPIRATION FROM THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE MID-
NINETEENTH CENTURY POLITICIAN LEDRU-ROLLIN, WHO
BEQUEATHED TO HIS FELLOW COUNTRY MEN
THE FAMOUS PHRASE: "I AM THEIR LEADER; I MUST
FOLLOW THEM." HOWEVER, THE DOUBLE STANDARD
OF WHICH WE WROTE IN THE REFTEL IS LIKELY TO
REMAIN LARGELY INVIOLEATE IN FRANCE, WHERE LIBLIN'S
VIEWS ARE THOSE OF THE TINIEST OF FACTIONS. IF
WE CAN DERIVE ANY MEASURE OF SATISFACTION FROM ALL
OF THIS, IT IS THAT THE EMBASSY IS CLEAN FOR
LIBLIN HASN'T BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US AND WE
HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM. IT'S PROBABLY
BETTER THAT IT STAY THAT WAY.
GAMMON

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